

Join the C.L.C. NOW

January 1953
Vol. I No. 3

6d.



U.S.A. LOOKS COVETOUSLY AT WEST INDIAN FEDERATION

BODY FORMED TO DUPE GUIANESE

From our Georgetown Correspondent

A NEW MOVEMENT, called the "Spiritual Movement Against Communism" was recently organised. Its prospectus states that "S.A.M.C. is a non-political, non-denominational organisation established by youths to oppose atheistic Communism. S.A.M.C. will carry out its aim by the following methods: (a) By publishing and distributing literature to show the evils of Atheistic Communism (b) By distributing true accounts of the suffering and misery—physical and mental, material and spiritual—of the people in Communist-dominated countries (c) By showing that it robs the individual of his God-given rights, including that to worship his Creator. If Freedom is to exist and Justice to reign we must play our part in this fight against Godlessness."

These are the people like Hon. Macnie (Sugar) who always talks about Russian Slave Camps, the eviction of workers from their homes in Russia and the alleged illegality of striking to cover up the poverty and misery of Guianese.

These are the same people who evict workers from the estates (where they have lived from birth) for taking part in trade union activities. Lionel Luckhoo, the President of the company union for sugar workers, said recently—"Lightning strikes are immoral".

LYTTELTON SUMMONS BRIEFING MEETING FOR MARCH/APRIL 1953

by BILLY STRACHAN

For over 300 years Empire propaganda has been directed at building London into a dignified reverence.

Foreign business could choose no more a appropriate place to convene talks on Federal matters and give their orders to shivering puppets hypnotised into a state of subservience.

How far will this plan succeed?

The final decision as to which path for the Federal West Indian State will be taken at home in the West Indies. It is the small peasants and cultivators, united with small shop-keepers and the skilled workers organised in trade unions who are going to have the last word!

BANNED and proud of it

We are informed that "Caribbean News" has been banned by the authorities in TRINIDAD.

This can only be regarded as some indication of the terror the foreign rulers have of a paper that exposes their malpractices.

What better political thermometer than the imperialist ban!

The smart-alecs of the late Labour Government jumped on the peoples' band wagon and tried to present the Federation demands as their hand-out. Multi-millionaires, Press and Radio have spent lavishly to sell this idea, and we have the dictates of one, Sir Hubert Rance, appearing as the wishes of 3 million West Indians.

This is the basis for the "briefing" meeting that Lyttleton has demanded.

More efficient exploitation

The sterility and mocking of the Rance proposals for Federation are too obvious.

Richard Hart, Secretary of the C.L.C. in Kingston, Jamaica (and at that time Vice-President of the T.U.C.) said:

continued on back page

TRINIDAD Oil Belt Workers Demonstrate

Caribbean Peoples News Service

Demonstrations continue to take place in the Trinidad oil belt by the workers who are seeking a wage increase. Token strikes have already been organised. One being in Pt. Fontin and Point-a-Pierre, which lasted a day and have already given the oil bosses a taste of the workers determination to break their present grip on the workers pay packet.

Negotiations continue meanwhile and the oil barons have plainly asserted their intention to give only a 6½ cents rise. This has been rejected and over 16,000 persons including the workers of Point-a-Pierre demonstrated in San Fernando with the workers of that town to show their resentment against the tight-fisted tactics of oil employers.



VULTURE OVER FEDERATION

IMPRESSION ON MEETING

IT was a fortunate lesson for us of the various West Indian islands who met Hon. Grantley Adams, C.M.G., Q.C., M.C.P., to hold preparatory discussions with him for the full sessions of the Caribbean Labour Congress which inevitably must be held, whether or not, the hoped for Council meeting of Mr. Adams materialises in Jamaica. The meeting was unfortunate in that no one would have actually thought that the circular signed by Mr. Adams to the Secretary of the C.L.C. was merely the mild tokens of his deep-seated desire for dismemberment of the Caribbean Labour Congress and the destruction of its LONDON BRANCH.

LIKE a few other such leaders in the Caribbean he sees greater sources of personal power by Caribbean dis-unity. It was unfortunate to see how West Indian leaders after receiving all which the people could possibly give, turn their forces to work against their aims and aspirations.

West Indian Deserter

This meeting was fortunate in that for once we knew independent West Indian leaders fighting on for a free and united West Indies will be obliged to continue to fight without the aid of Mr. Adams. It was fortunate for us that we were able to place Mr. Adams on the spot when he admitted that he saw no chance of a Caribbean unity, because of affiliations in the Congress, to different world bodies, such as the W.R.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U.

National Leaders United

SOME of the leading trade unionists and labour leaders attending talks with Adams were Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, M.L.C., President, T.U.C., and Parliamentary Leader P.P.P., British Guiana, Mr. John

ADAMS

by

Hon. E.T. Joshua, M.L.C.
Kingstown, St. Vincent



Hon. E.T. Joshua

Rojas, President of the Oil Field Workers Trade Union, Mr. Quentin O'Connor, Secretary of the T.U.C., and also the Federated Workers Trade Union and John La Rose, Secretary of the West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad, Richard Hart, Secretary of the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS, myself and others. In the meeting at the Assembly Hall, Bridgetown, Barbados, to discuss the threat seen in the circular letter of the President, Mr. Adams gave what appears to be his own opinion of

the inevitability of a split in the affiliations of the C.L.C.

THE main contribution to the discussion with Mr. Adams was that we were all assembled from our various islands to tell him, as President of the C.L.C., that we do not see any inevitable split and further, that we were unprepared to tolerate a dismemberment of this august body. We also made it clear that we loathe to see the division of West Indian workers into parcels for convenience, and because of international affiliations. We could not see how affiliation to two world bodies could affect West Indian organisations in the C.L.C. or its LONDON BRANCH.

THE latest achievement of the C.L.C. branch in London was the strongest protest against a foul and sacrilegious motion put by Hon. H. F. Young, of the St. Vincent Legislature, against myself as an elected member of that body. This motion was foiled by a wave of protest of which the C.L.C. LONDON BRANCH was the most effective, being on the spot.

MR. ADAMS GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD A DUTY TO PERFORM EVEN BEYOND HIS WILL BY THE ADVENTUROUS PATH HE IS PURSUING TOWARDS CARIBBEAN DIS-UNITY.

It was told to Mr. Adams as a part of the contribution that we invariably find leaders made by the will of the people and after it was apparent to them that imperial titles were far better than the fight for independence, the workers were known to be left exposed by them to the murderous fire of every new model rifle of the imperial armoury, even in a constitutional clamour for better working conditions.

Mr. Adams wanted time to sleep over the matter and to consider the proposition put forward by Secretary Hart and the delegation. It is not likely that Mr. Adams may change his mind as he has gone too far in accepting the orders of the regional organisation of the I.C.F.T.U. (ORIT) and its pecuniary connections and implications. He has the headquarters under his protection in Barbados. Frank Walcott and Marcono, Secretary of this Adams-Walcott-Marcono set-up will have its resultant repercussions as the time comes more exigent for West Indian unity.

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TREASURE CHEST

£ WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

by our Financial Correspondent

ANTIGUA

Profits From Sugar Rise Over 400%

What a grab! What a haul!

Within one year the nett profit of the ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY has risen from £6,088 to £28,323.

Now we see why the troops were flown into St. John, Antigua, in 1951 at such short notice. Worth protecting, eh?

There is no doubt now, not even in the mind of the most crooked dupe, as to why the BRITISH ARMY and NAVY stand by in our country.

The Antigua Sugar Factory is owned and registered in London, prepares and publishes their accounts within the financial legislation of the House of Commons. Antigua's representative there is Capt. Oliver Lyttelton, Tory Colonial Secretary !!

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St. KITTS

The owners in Britain of the St. KITTS (London) SUGAR FACTORY are also doing well.

The nett profit for the year is £39,712 AFTER all charges including taxation!

The directors are proposing to increase the distribution of the loot from 17½ per cent tax free to 20 per cent, tax free.

When this is formally approved (as it will be) the directors will have available to "carry forward" £110,065, which is over and above what has already been shared out over the years of exploitation and misery.

Your move now, Mr. Bradshaw.

TRINIDAD

APEX (Trinidad) OILFIELDS: It's up, up and UP! Profits here are nearly \$3,000,000 W.I. (£547,660) for the year ending 30th September, 1952. This is an increase on the year previously of some \$85,000 W.I. (£16,927).

Smirking gleefully the London City sheiks wring their hands, having pocketed a 45 per cent TAX FREE dividend, a sizeable filip on last year's mere 40 per cent!

The retired colonels, admirals and their class in Kenya, did this yesterday, but are fast on their way to sackcloth and purgatory, in company with their "fellahs" from Anglo-Iranian !!

BRITISH GUIANA

BOOKER BROTHERS, McCONNELL & CO., are seizing £3.10.0 for every £100 they invested several years ago. They call this an "interim dividend". But in addition, Bookers shareholders are also claiming AND GETTING another £4 per £100, in the form of an increase in their Share Capital. This time they give it the highfalutin' title of "scrip bonus".

It all means that sugar-workers, shop assistants, transport men, etc., are paying heavily for the doubtful privilege of Mr. McConnell and his friends' interests.

* * *

TRINIDAD

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS is going fast for outbidding Anglo-Iranian or any other oil moguls at the peak of their heyday. Profits rose by £429,247 (approx. \$2,000,000 W.I.), nearly reaching two million pounds (£1,899,952). This was after the tax was paid. The rake-off for shareholders here was £16.13.4 for every £100 Share Capital, TAX FREE.

Not satisfied however—perhaps Persia is too recent an uncomfortable reality—LEASEHOLDS Directors are putting £1,000,000 to what they call the "Holding company's" reserves.

From shortage of cash, Education expenditure cannot afford sufficient new schools, and classes are maintained on a shift system. Pity the poor rich? PITY THE POOR TRINIDADIAN!

★ Greetings ★

Jamaica Youth Movement

The Young People of Jamaica, organised in the Jamaica Youth Movement, send you greetings and felicitations on the inauguration of your monthly news-magazine "CARIBBEAN NEWS".

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the London Branch of the C.L.C. on its valuable "on-the-spot" work since its inception in 1948, in the struggle for West Indian Independence and Freedom. We regard "Caribbean News" as another important milestone on the road which can only lead to Victory.

Heartiest congratulations and sincere good wishes on your new venture.

(signed) Harry Drayton,
General Secretary.

Greetings with a Jingle from Birmingham Branch

"CONGRATULATIONS to the Committee for having launched CARIBBEAN NEWS.

"It is indeed a splendid start in another of the many steps taken by the C.L.C., LONDON BRANCH, on behalf of West Indians in Britain to further strengthen the fight on behalf of all Colonial peoples for National Independence.

Let me wish, on behalf of the Birmingham Branch and its members, long life and strength to 'Caribbean News'.

PLEASE ACCEPT FIVE SHILLINGS POSTAL ORDER ENCLOSED AS CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR C.N. FUND.

HENRY GUNTER,
CHAIRMAN."

People's Educational Organisation (Jamaica)

The People's Educational Organisation sends you fraternal greetings on the start of your monthly newspaper "Caribbean News".

This new weapon which you have forged will be of invaluable assistance in clarifying for our people the important issues with which we in the Caribbean are confronted, in our struggles against Imperialism and for Self-Government and Freedom.

We salute you on your record of Service to the Caribbean cause, and wish you every success in your new venture.

(signed) Harry Drayton,
General Secretary.

"CN" FUND

THE Birmingham comrades know the kind of greetings we like, with a contribution from Comrade Gunter to the CN Fund.

WE would like to see many more such greetings rolling in, swelling the Fund and putting life-blood into "Caribbean News," which needs EVERY penny.

Send contributions to "CN" FUND,
45 Brondesbury Villas, London, N.W.6.

You NEED "CN", and "CN" needs YOU.

Editorial

CARIBBEAN NEWS

Issued Monthly

Address:

45 Brondesbury Villas,
London, - N.W.6

Face the Future with Confidence

A New Year dawns for Mankind.

Amid the reflections of the past and resolutions for the New Year, let us take a glance at the path the peoples have traversed.

On the one hand, the forces of Imperialism and Colonial Plunder have endeavoured to step-up their preparations for war and for new onslaughts on the colonial people.

But on the other hand, the forces of the People for Peace and Independence have also grown, and as they develop it gets more difficult for the Foreign Armies to rule in Malaya, Vietnam, Korea, Egypt, Persia, Tunisia and elsewhere.

The Lion will Rise

Political fakers would like to keep the ordinary people asleep, oblivious of the mounting struggles of their brothers in other lands. The past year has seen, however, the further development of the awakening process of the colonial people, despite the fakers.

In treading on the Colonial Peoples the world over, the Foreign Bosses are finding that what they have so contemptuously stepped on is a powerful lion growing impatient.

The West Indian Lion is also growing restless.

West Indians are overcoming slumber and confusion, and are developing well organised, correctly oriented bodies and parties to take FORWARD the whole movement for Independence.

Learie Constantine Writes - Explains

The Editor:

I have not forgotten my promise to write something on Sport for the Caribbean News. Perhaps you will remember that at the time I was engaged on my Bar Finals and could not spare the time needed for preparing this article.

Now that I am through I have taken on two commissions which necessitated my being away from home, i.e., a lecture tour in the north of England lasting about a week, after which I must get ready to fly to Ceylon where I shall be for about three months. With the Christmas season almost upon us and with my other extra activities you will appreciate there is little time for doing this work.

I crave your further indulgence until my return from the East.

Wishing the Congress and the new venture all success.

Your sincerely,

(Signed) Learie Constantine.

The newly formed West Indian Independence Party in Trinidad is but the latest reinforcement to join the ranks of the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana and the People's Educational Organisation of Jamaica, representing as they do the most advanced sections in three of the largest and decisive territories in the West Indies.

Colonial Tidings

Under Colonisation, the New Year brings nothing but rising prices for food, rising unemployment, increased poverty for the masses of West Indians.

It usually brings bigger profits for the Foreign Companies.

The People must change this cruel injustice so that every New Year will invariably see new heights attained in a New Life of rising standards of living, more food, clothes, houses fit to live in, instead of tents and ramshackle huts.

Bright Perspectives

Characteristic of the world to-day is the gloom with which imperialist spokesmen look to the future, running through all their conferences, reports and learned books. This reflects the decline of the Imperialist system, as, for them, the future is indeed gloomy.

But for the West Indian people, the most glorious period in their history is yet to come. It cannot be otherwise, so let us greet the New Year with confidence in our ability to win and build a full and brilliant life with human dignity and comfort.

THE FUTURE IS OURS, WE CANNOT LOSE!

BEST WISHES

"Caribbean News" extends most sincere good wishes to its readers for the New Year.

We wish to express a special heartfelt gratitude to readers who sell "Caribbean News"—those indefatigable supporters who do the job of selling on the street and on the knocker, winning new readers and boosting sales, which in turn allows the paper to grow in circulation at a steady pace.

Without such active supporters CARIBBEAN NEWS could not face the future confidently and increase in size to eight pages.

But we cannot afford to stand still. We must keep on progressing for the sake of the aims we hold dear.

We therefore appeal to readers again to consider how they can help: (1) in making bigger sales, and (2) expanding the "C.N." FUND by contributions.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly stated in the editorial column of the December issue that purchasers of small quantities of the paper for sale would get a 40% discount. This is incorrect, for it applies only to purchasers of large quantities in the West Indies, where the discount is about 33%. We ask readers to note the error.

★ Greetings ★

British Guiana (P.P.P.)

It is with deep pleasure that I write extending my best wishes to the editor and staff of the new publication "Caribbean News". Your first issue is of immense value and should go far in co-ordinating the freedom movement in the British Caribbean.

We, in the British West Indies, are constantly threatened by the splitting tactics of the enemies of the working class, who find willing stooges in the "so-called" friends of the workers. Your publication will help nail the lies and show the way for the future people's democracy in these parts.

(signed) Janet Jagan, Secretary,
People's Progressive Party.

CIVIL LIBERTIES in British Guiana

by Janet Jagan
Secretary, People's Progressive Party

IN British Guiana, the only British possession on the South American mainland, there are many examples of infringements on the civil liberties of the people. In the last few years there has been a tremendous change in the attitude of the people. From a disinterested outlook on world and local politics they have now become a vital and militant force.

This upsurge of the masses has been manifested by a vigorous objection to colonial rule and by increased demands for improved conditions. Last year the Governor was booed as he left Legislative Council because of an unpopular tax on sweet drinks. Several people were arrested despite the fact that the crowd was not disorderly.

THE Government recently introduced a Bill in the Legislative Council to give the Commissioner of Police the right to grant or disallow permission to use loud-speakers in British Guiana. This would mean that the sole authority to determine if a public meeting could be held with a loud speaker would be the Commissioner of Police. Street corner meetings using loud speaker equipment have been very frequent in recent years, and this is an obvious attempt to restrict the number of public meetings. Meetings of protest and picketing before the Legislative Council Chambers on the day the Bill was up for debate succeeded in delaying the passing of the Bill, which has now gone into Committee.

Police kill workers

IN 1948, after the police killed five sugar workers who were participating in a 4½ months sugar strike for better wages and conditions, the Sugar Estate authorities served trespass notices on the leaders of the strike movement. In British Guiana the sugar estates lease 88,873 acres of land and own 82,205 acres.

The trespass notices therefore prohibit trade unionists and leaders from entering most of that land. One of those receiving trespass notices was Hon. Cheddi Jagan, Member of the Legislative Council for Central Demerara. In Central Demerara there are six sugar estates occupying 26,072 acres of land and housing 18,099 people (1946 census figures). This legislator is thereby prevented from visiting his constituents, seeing schools and sanitary conditions and holding public meetings in this area. In 1950, he attended a meeting at the invitation of his constituents, in one of the sugar estates, and was subsequently sued for \$5,000 damages by the estates.

SUGAR estate labourers, in most cases, are resident on the plantations. This is a hang-over system from the times of slavery and the later indentured method of employing labourers from India. The estate houses or ranges are owned by the sugar proprietors. Most families have been resident in these buildings for several generations, some since they were transported from India. Yet, for participating in strikes or for trade union activities, workers are evicted from these houses with 2 weeks' notice. In a strike called last month by the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union, nine workers and their entire families were evicted from houses they had occupied from birth.

IN March, 1952, a motion was approved in the Legislative Council, moved by a nominated member, to "prohibit the entry of books, films and pamphlets of a subversive nature

and contrary to public interest" into British Guiana. The mover of the motion is the second person who, defeated at the last general elections, was nominated to the Legislative Council by the Governor. It is understood that Government is now drafting the legislation for the enactment of this motion. There has been a vigorous opposition by the people to the motion which would restrict the reading material of the population. The Customs Department just lately refused to allow the entry of a shipment of books imported by Hon. Cheddi Jagan from England.

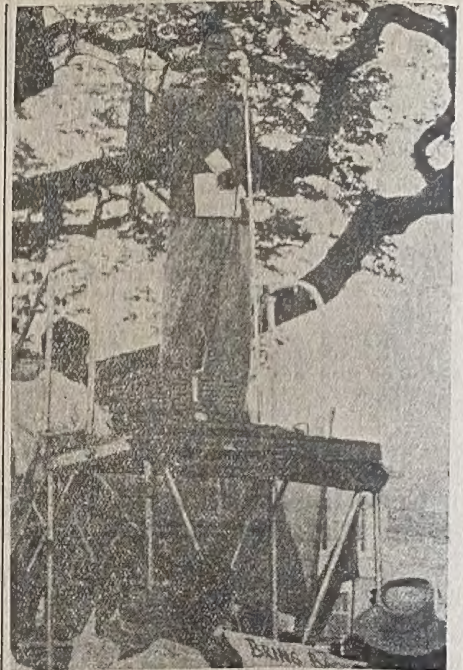
Travel restricted

SINCE February of this year, various Governments in the West Indies have been restricting the right to travel. The record is as follows: (1) Janet Jagan, Secretary of the B.G. People's Progressive Party and Cheddi Jagan, Legislator of B.G. were deemed prohibited immigrants by the Government of Trinidad and Grenada; (2) Richard Hart, of the Jamaica Trade Union Congress and Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress was prevented from entering Trinidad on two occasions, one being only for a few hours in transit to Barbados; (3) in April, Billy Strachan of the London Branch of the Caribbean Labour Congress and Ferdinand Smith, of the World Federation of Trade Unions, both Jamaica born, were declared prohibited immigrants in Trinidad and were not allowed to enter British Guiana. Later, Ferdinand Smith was refused permission to land in Trinidad in transit to Barbados, and also banned in Barbados. (4) The Government of Trinidad also banned Ken Hill, the then Mayor of Kingston, but later allowed him to enter Trinidad in transit to Barbados to attend an I.C.F.T.U. Conference. Despite protests in the West Indies and abroad, these bans have not been lifted.

Halls refused

POLITICAL groups in British Guiana find difficulty in obtaining halls for meetings. Some school buildings, controlled by various religious denominations, refuse to grant the use of the buildings for certain political meetings. In Kitty Village, the Council recently turned down an application from the People's Progressive Party to continue to use their Welfare Hall for meeting purposes. The Kitty group of the Party had been using the hall for several years before. Skedon Corentyne, the manager of the local cinema, agreed to allow the People's Progressive Party to hold a meeting. On the morning of the meeting, he withdrew his permission. The sugar estate authorities from the nearby estate had cautioned the manager; thus the change of attitude.

OVER and over again, trade unions and parties, when applying for permission to demonstrate in the city, have made requests to be allowed to have music. The Commissioner of Police has always refused to grant this request to have a band at a demonstration. Those who are acquainted with the West



Sydney King, Assistant Secretary, People's Progressive Party and member of the B.G. Peace Committee addresses a mass gathering at Parade Ground, Georgetown.

Indies know the great attraction music has for the people. Nevertheless, demonstrators sing lustily to make the long marches around the city lively and colourful.

Another Bill came before the Legislative Council last month designed primarily to restrict organisations from the public collection of money. It is obviously aimed at trade unions which might go to the public to collect money for strike funds. Under this Bill only religious, philanthropic or charitable organisations continued on page 7

★ FLASH ★

Councillor Sidney King, Member of the Georgetown (British Guiana) City Council, whose picture appears on this page, arrived in England on Monday, December 15th, and departed the following day for Vienna to attend the Peoples Congress for Peace.

Hear

SYDNEY KING

Asst. Sec. P.P.P., British Guiana

Sunday, January 18th.

2-30 p.m.

HOLBORN HALL

Grays Inn Road

Tube: Chancery Lane

GROWING UNITY IN TRINIDAD

The 21st October, 1952, may well prove to be a memorable day in the history of Trinidad. On that day before a crowded meeting at the Trinidad Public Library, Port-of-Spain, the West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad and Tobago was formed.

This new party was formed by the united action of the two most militant Trinidadian labour organisations, the Workers Freedom Movement led by Jim Barrett, John La Rose and Lennox Pierre, and the Trades Union Congress under the leadership of Quinton O'Connor and John Rojas.

Mass Meeting

A few days later the party held its first mass meeting in Woodford Square before a crowd of more than 2,000. Extending its activities among the most important section of the community, the workers, the party held another rally in San Fernando on October 29th, and at the end of this meeting scores of people were lining up to join the Party.

In keeping with the finest traditions of international working class solidarity the Party members in Port-of-Spain demonstrated outside the Venezuelan Consulate protesting at the recent murder of Luis Penada and other fascist activities of the Venezuelan military junta now in power.

In an admirably written Provisional Statement the policy of the W.I.I.P. is given and a lucid and practical fundamental Programme is laid down. Its basic policy is formulated thus:

"to struggle for the abolition, once and for all, of British imperialist rule, for the establishment of an Independent Trinidad & Tobago in a Federated Independent West Indies."

With firm and precise words it describes the Party's outlook:—

"Our Party stands squarely in the world proletarian anti-imperialist front with the peoples fighting for national liberation. Our Party is Socialist in outlook."

Patriots

These are the words of true patriots. Any political leader who hesitates about his position to the opposing camps of Peace and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union, and the Warmongers and Imperialists headed by the United States, is in effect betraying those who regard him as leader by confusing them as to the real culprits responsible for their condition, and whom will be their true friend and staunchest ally.

In giving the conditions necessary for Independence the statement says, "... (the) Party shall strive to unite the forces of the working class leading the other revolutionary elements of the people including the peasants, progressive intellectuals, and liberal sections of the capitalist class."

Having a fundamental Programme is always a very good pointer to the seriousness of a political party. Parties under the leadership of political opportunists, such as the British Labour Party, always shirk having a fundamental programme. Just in case they may be tied down to carrying out that policy at some future date.

Programme

The West Indian Independence Party lists its Provisional Fundamental Programme under eleven heads: Government, Land and Agriculture, Labour, Wages and Prices, Industry, Trade, Housing, Health, Education, Social Security, Public Works and Communications, Civil Rights. A few of the main points are:

"Distribution of unused land of major estates and Crown lands to poor and landless peasants."
"Unemployment relief or jobs for all."
"The local job for the local man in all branches and at all levels of Public Services and Administration as well as of Industry, on the basis of the highest merit and best qualification."

by "THE LINK"

"Ultimate nationalisation of Oil, Sugar and Asphalt."
"Free elementary, intermediate and secondary education with a West Indian orientation."
"Abolition or amendment of all laws and practices which jeopardise freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom of worship and other basic freedoms."

Such a Statement and Programme is sure to come and with hard work and patient explanations, the support of all honest Trinidadians.

Representative Committee

The first Party Conference will be held in April, 1953. In the meanwhile, the Party is under the guidance of Lennox Pierre, Provisional Chairman, John La Rose, General Secretary, Osmund Fletcher, Dep. General Secretary, Cyril Gonzales, Asst. General Secretary, Quinton O'Connor, Treasurer. Other members of the Executive Committee are: Jim Barrett, John Commissiong, Millicent Corbin, Dudley Mahon, Simeon Alexander, Ramrattan Madoc, Rita Scott, John Poon and Lucius Mondezie.

C.L.C. (London Branch) MEETING DISCUSSES PEACE and the WEST INDIES

Caribbean News Reporter

At the November General Meeting of the C.L.C., London Branch, the question of Peace and the West Indies was the main topic of discussion.

Comrade Ranji Chandisingh, President of the C.L.C., in the Chair, in introducing the subject, presented a picture of a world arming to the teeth and challenging mankind with a ghastly fate. Comrade Chandisingh described the suffering which the Korean people were experiencing in the Imperialist dress rehearsal for World War 3. He told of the horrors of Napalm and Bacteriological warfare going on there and mentioned the Chemical warfare which the British Imperialists are waging in Malaya.

He pointed out that the choice between peace or war was open to mankind; peace, with construction, production of plenty and happiness, and war, with destruction and misery. In addition, he outlined the broad composition of the Congress for Peace and the fact that its decisions were not binding on participants.

On the Barricades

One comrade from Santo Domingo said that to talk of peace was a waste of time; we must be ready to sacrifice blood to gain freedom. He pointed out that the people of Kenya were sacrificing blood to achieve their freedom, and he said that the weak must make themselves as strong as the oppressors in order to defeat them.

Comrade Strachan in his remarks at the meeting said that the comrade obviously did not understand the meaning of the struggle for peace. He agreed that fighting for national independence is a positive right in fighting against imperialist aggression, and with him that the people of Kenya and Malaya were contributing to world peace. Such struggles, he said, were in fact weakening imperialism, which was bent on world war and conquest. He said that we should give all support we can to them as they were sincerely desiring peace, but not at the expense of their freedom.

Who gets the kick

Comrade Simms said that the imperialists were fond of saying that they were preparing a war machine for a war against Russia, but in fact this machine was also for war against the colonial people, because it is seen to-day that the wars which are being fought by these armies in creation are being fought against colonial people at the present time, Kenya, Malaya, Viet Nam, Tunis, Egypt, etc. So it is obvious that our duty in the first place is to fight against the establishment of large armies, for peace against the drive to war.

He further said that he did not disagree that one should be willing to sacrifice blood, but now is the time that we should sacrifice our time and effort to prevent this world war. He urged that support should be given the C.L.C. and all progressive organisations fighting for peace.

Trickery

Comrade C. Taylor pointed out a subtle method by which the sugar estates under the pretext of assisting greater local food production, got Jamaican workers during the last war to cultivate grass for them free of cost. This was done by giving the people land to plant food crops of corn and peas. He said that after the reaping of the crops the workers were given fresh land and told that in order to rest and reutilise the land they should plant grass on their previous plots. These plots were left as grass fields afterwards. The result was that at the end of the war, the estates had got extensive grass fields at their disposal free of charge. He wanted to show that it is the big capitalists in the colonies and elsewhere who really profit from war, and it was in the interests of West Indians, the struggle for peace.

Back to the Cave

Comrade Cazeau said that the object of the peace movement was to prevent the unleashing of world war three. He said that all civilisation depends upon an industrial substructure and in an atomic world war this industrial substructure would be irreparably damaged. It was necessary to prevent this destruction if humanity is to be preserved from possible extinction. He pointed out that eminent scientists and statesmen have spoken of the catastrophic consequences for humanity if this world war three is allowed to occur.

He quoted Professor Einstein as saying "I do not know what weapons will be used in world war three, but this I do know, that in world war number four men will fight with clubs." Professor Fineberg said "This atomic war may very well be man's last." It may very well bring down the curtain on the human drama." Pandit Nehru is quoted also as saying "If such a large scale atomic war occurs it would mean the death of over one thousand million people—half the world's population, which would mean the physical and moral collapse of humanity."

Comrade Cazeau went on "People are a greater force than weapons. If people do not man the guns there could be no war." He quoted Comrade Mao Tse Tung's prophetic words, which were "In the final analysis it will not be the bomb that destroys the people, it will be the people who destroy the bomb."

WAR IMMORAL

Other speakers pointed out the immorality of the issue before West Indians and other colonial people. They were being pressed by the imperialist ruling powers into fighting wars of suppression against their colonial cousins who were fighting for the liberation of their countries from foreign rule. Such wars, the speakers pointed out, were actually going on to-day in Vietnam, Malaya and Kenya.

Arising out of the discussion, it became quite clear to all West Indians present that their struggle for independence was indissolubly linked with the world wide struggle for peace.

Dr. Holland was accepted as delegate to the Peoples Congress for Peace held in Vienna, December 12th - 17th.

SLAVE LABOUR in KENYA...

by Rolly Simms

Since the recent developments in Kenya have shown to the world that the African people are prepared to fight for the achievement of their national independence and a better way of life, numerous facts of the bestial regime that oppresses the people of Kenya have been brought to light.

We reproduce below a photograph of a forced labour order which in Kenya and throughout East Africa is a common method of obtaining labour. Britain was forced to admit in UNO (Paris, 1949) after a dramatic exposure by the Polish delegate that there were 75,000 Africans in Kenya, Uganda and Gambia labouring under compulsion.

This is only one type of the barbarous treatment meted out to Africans "for their benefit." By means of a Poll Tax on all African males of around 15 to 22 shillings per year and crowding them into a smaller area of their country, the white planters and industrialists ensures that starvation and the penalties for non-payment of Poll Tax will force the African to accept any price for his work.

The Africans in Kenya have been forced on to 50,000 square miles of their country, i.e., an African must exist on less than six acres of land. Land which is often not the most fertile in Kenya and is usually waterless. The 3,000 European farmers have 16,500 square miles or 5½ square miles per European. N.B.—one square mile equals 640 acres. The "White Highlands" has been exclusively reserved by law for the use of Europeans. This area has the best rainfall and the most fertile soil. It has often been stated by way of excuse that the European farms better than the African and therefore his grabbing of the land in the long run benefits the entire community. This is refuted by no less a source than the "Nairobi Daily Chronicle" which stated that "less than one-tenth of the land held by Europeans was under cultivation" (1.4.50).

Sweated Labour

Leslie Hale, the member of Parliament who

recently visited Kenya, gave an example to the House of Commons on 16/12/52 of how the white farmers get labour for their farms, "I have in my hand a contract which is in a printed form with typewritten insertions in the blanks made under the Resident Labourers Ordinance, attested by a magistrate for the protection of the native. "It is a contract for three years which cannot be determined by the worker. It provides he shall have a piece of land not more than two and a half acres. It doesn't provide any home, but provides that the worker should be supplied with building materials.

"It doesn't provide him with any food. It explicitly says "no posho" (an African maize). "It restricts the crops he can grow on his little bit of land to maize, potatoes and other vegetables. It refuses to allow him any cattle, donkeys, or goats, and says he can own up to 15 sheep if he can afford them.

"If he has a lad who attains the age of 16 years the lad must work for the employer, or can be ordered to leave the premises and go elsewhere.

"And the contract can be extended up to five years in the name of the employer, who is Mr. Michael Blundell, the leader of the European members in the Legislative Council.

"I think the time for being moderate in this matter has gone. I want to say that this agreement imposes conditions as bad as any in the wicked days of slavery."

Need Our Support

These shameful events in Kenya should arouse the fiercest determination in the heart of every West Indian to resist the foul policy of British Imperialism with all our strength and in every way and any way possible.

Organisations in the West Indies will realise that the best way to assist the people of Kenya is to double our efforts for our National Independence.

Protest resolutions and demonstrations have always been an exceedingly effective way of showing solidarity and letting the entire world know where the West Indian Labour movement stands.

Boycott Colonial Office Functions

West Indians in London have the glorious opportunity of letting Lyttelton and his henchmen know exactly how we and the West Indians at home feel about Kenya. Representatives of the League of Coloured Peoples, West Indian Students Union, West African Students Union, Gold Coast Union, Sierra Leone Students Union, and the Nigeria Union (London) have already decided to boycott all functions organised by the Colonial Office. Members of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) should need no further guidance on this issue. It should be our duty to expose and hold up to ridicule any West Indian so spineless and greedy that he would eat and drink with those responsible for the atrocities being committed against the African people in Kenya to-day.

West Indians in London should go further, and join freely with those sections of the British Labour Movement who genuinely detest the foul deeds being committed in Kenya in their name and ensure that British Imperialism from now on will receive a succession of hard blows overseas as well as in Britain.

.. and in U S A

God's own Country

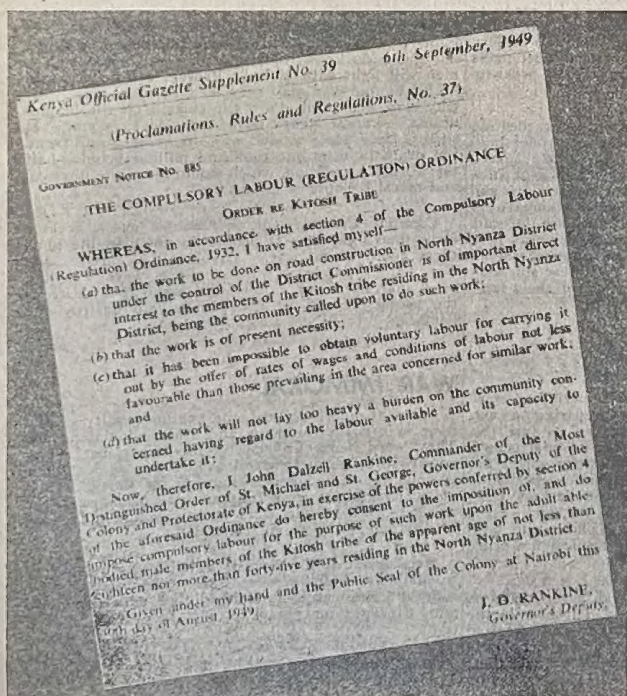
(Caribbean Peoples News Service)

Three West Indians recently returned from the U.S.A., that—"Heaven on Earth". They had gone there with the intention of improving their standard of life and to escape the poverty-stricken plight of their own homeland. Now that they have seen the deplorable conditions which exist in the U.S.A. they have returned rather than be subjected to the inhuman treatment from the Americans. They slept on cots without pillows, a few feet away from a cesspit. For breakfast, they received one slice of bread and a piece of cheese "so thin that you could see through it". Lunch was a corned beef sandwich and a "sweet drink". And at night the menu was boiled corn, peas, one potato and a cup of unsweetened coffee.

Grim Experience

This mythical "Heaven on Earth", this wonderful "land of opportunity" is daily being exposed to wider sections of our people as a country within which abounds vast slave labour camps—slave labour with all its horrors. No amount of lies from the U.S. capitalists about "equal opportunity" can change the grim experience of British Caribbean agricultural workers in the U.S.A.

**Slave labour
ordinance of
Kenya
Government
which forces
Africans
to work on
Public
construction**



The artist's role in the struggle for freedom

Poetry and the West Indies

by Jan Carew

Art is so closely linked to the fundamental rhythms of life that any movement for national liberation must of necessity throw up new art forms. The artist's role in the struggle for freedom does not lie in a subjective recording of the tremors in the pulse of this struggle—the artist must be a part of the blood stream that regulates the rhythms of this pulse.

The West Indian struggle for national liberation is no exception to this rule. To-day we have West Indian artists emerging in every field of the arts, poetry, the novel, music and drama. In this article we will deal with poetry, for poetry is the natural dialogue of resurgent man.

* * *

Civil Liberties from page 4

tions will be allowed to collect money publicly, but with the permission of the Commissioner of Police. Trade Unions and political organisations are excluded from the Bill. This also would hit the annual May Day tag collection carried out by the B.G. Trades Council for the past few years. Like the Bill to control loud speakers, this was deferred when opposition was revealed.

Civil Servants

GOVERNMENT has just issued a circular to civil servants and employees pointing out the necessity of preserving the impartiality and political neutrality of the service. In the political neutrality circular civil servants and pensionable Transport and Harbour employees cannot take part in politics and may not:

1. Hold office in any political organisation.
2. Speak in public on matters of political controversy.
3. Write letters to the press, broadcast, publish books or articles or circulate leaflets in political matters.
4. Canvas in support of political candidates.

This will remove rights enjoyed by many government employees who hold office in political organisations and speak at public meetings, etc. Government's attitude in maintaining political neutrality is a false one as the three chief civil servants hold political positions, as members of the Legislative Council. These civil servants—the Attorney-General, Colonial Secretary and Financial Secretary—take sides frequently in the Legislative Chamber and recently voted against a motion to allow Billy Strachan and Ferdinand Smith to enter British Guiana. "Talk of political neutrality of civil servants is a myth" said a trade union leader recently.

Fighting back

Despite the moves related above by an imperialist government to keep its subject people in full control, the people to-day are on the march. They are objecting to every move and are fully conscious of what is happening. They are prepared to fight to the finish every attempt to suppress their rights and civil liberties.

What is poetry? Is it something that the worker should hold in disdain as a plaything for leisured classes? Is it something mystic that only a few can understand? These questions can be answered by pointing to the origins of poetry. Poetry has its roots in the beginnings of language.

It is Professor Thompson's theory that language grew out of the necessity of primitive man to co-ordinate the movements of the work act. He substantiates this theory by pointing to tribal dances which imitate the work act, e.g., the tilling of a field with a hoe. The movements of these dances are co-ordinated by a rhythmic chanting. The importance of this theory is that it lays bare the link between labour and dialogue and it is in this original dialogue that poetry has its roots. Poetry preceded spoken language and even to-day the language of primitive peoples is full of poetic images. The American-Indian of Guiana calls Mount Koraima "Koraima of the red rock, the ever fertile source of streams".

The West Indian, in his striving to give articulation to his immediate and pressing human needs: nationhood, freedom from want, liberation from the weight of a terrible halter imposed on his life by strangers, cannot afford to ignore the creative aspects of his struggle. One of the leading West Indian poets, Wilson Harris, says: "When the exploited man becomes aware of original rhythms within the oppression of his world, contradictions are bared in a manner, terrifying and yet containing the secret of change . . ."

* * *

The history of the Americas is one with many records of the artist fighting side by side with his people. There are many contemporary examples of this: Neruda of Chile, Amado of Brazil, Césaire of Martinique, Croco of Mexico, and Martin Carter, the leading revolutionary poet of the British West Indies whose work should be more widely read.

The main purpose of this article is to encourage readers to develop an interest in poetry, our poetry and poetry as a whole. There are many West Indian poets to-day, most of whose work is valueless, but there are a few whose stature as poets cannot be challenged anywhere in the world. Poetry is an exacting art. Shelley says: "Poets are mirrors that reflect gigantic shadows of things to come . . ." and to-day the poet's work is more difficult than ever. He must penetrate through to the fundamental rhythms of life for his work to be genuine. The figure of

West Indian man is to-day submerged under tides of mythology and obscured behind veils of half truths. In his struggle he is rising above these tides and tearing these veils asunder. This whole can touch any deep chords of response in his people's hearts. Man and the artist are one. The artist creates his art and man sustains it. It is only within the framework of this collective that poetry or any other art can survive.

"Freedom is a white road with green grass like love . . ." Martin Carter sings in his "Poems of Prison."

"Freedom is an architecture of movement down the river of ocean . . ."

The still cry of a hero is rebuke enough

To stir a company of living men
to seek freedom . . .

To blunt death's ambitions
or spear the rash demon who would shatter the globe.

Wilson Harris writes in his poem "The Glorious Children of the Gods". These poems are warnings to the men who dream that the world is an "eternal station", a changeless society of masters and slaves. Neruda relegates these men to

"The interminable granary of lost deeds . . ."

* * *

There is no national printing press in the West Indies and in the absence of this measure must be improvised to propagate culture. Martin Carter's poems could well be read to groups of workers through programmes sponsored by progressive parties.

"Out of my time I carve a monument . . ."

The sharp knife of dawn glitters in my hand . . . Carter's poems echo the voices of all West Indians, they represent the faithful portrayal of the dreams of men bursting from the streets of forgotten men, into the modern world.

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COMMONWEALTH Economic Conference

From Ranji Chandisingh

THE slogan of this conference recently concluded in London might well be—"Intensified exploitation of the Colonial people and their resources."

The adjustment of the Commonwealth's financial and economic policies to meet the requirements of American capital is clearly evident in the report released at the close of the Conference, revealing the extent to which the British capitalists have sunk in their dependence on Yankee dollars.

Apart from the breaking down of the white Commonwealth people's own living standard, thinly disguised in the phraseology of the Minister's report as "internal economics in each country,"—one of the main targets of the plan strikes directly and savagely at the colonial peoples.

"Food and agricultural products, and minerals" are stressed in the report, the production of which must be stepped up and exported, chiefly to the U.S.

Dollar Earners

Mr. John Dugdale, M.P., speaking on the Colonial Loans Bill debate in Parliament on November 14th, had this to say:

"While we had difficulties in meeting our balance of payments the Colonies produced a surplus of no less than 450 million dollars last year, a very considerable contribution to our dollar problem; far in excess of many of the contributions which industry is called on to make by selling goods in the dollar market to America."

In the same speech he pointed out that the West Indies earned 50 million dollars last year.

From this it is not difficult to understand the motives for intensified colonial exploitation.

Along with this goes the penetration of "benevolent" American capital.

Among the incentives given to American capital investment is a relaxation of exchange control which will allow residents outside the sterling area who have invested in the U.K. or the Colonies, since January 1st, 1950, to withdraw profits as well as capital.

... and O.E.E.C. too

Almost simultaneously with the ending of the Commonwealth Conference, the American-run Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, set out in its fourth-yearly report proposals for "Point Four" to be transferred from providing purely technical assistance to an agency for investing large sums of Yankee capital in the under-developed areas. This, it is made clear, would be a life saver to take in the slack when rearmament expenditure decreases.

True character

In other words, avoid economic slump by preparing for war, then if war is not engineered, turn the surplus capital to extracting the maximum profits out of the colonial people.

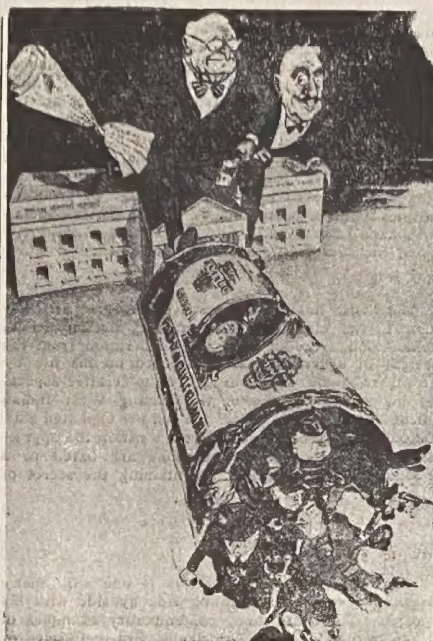
All this is described as so much benevolence towards the "lesser breeds". But as the crisis of the imperialist world deepens, the sheep's clothing is dropping from the wolf one by one.

The Commonwealth Economic Conference and the O.E.E.C. Report have advanced the imperialists' plots a step further.

How far shall they succeed? That is now being decided by the people of Malaya, Vietnam, Korea, Kenya, Tunis, Persia, Egypt, and not least of all by the West Indies.

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* * *

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Federation (ctd.)

from page 1

"It recommends federation of the British Caribbean Colonies—Crown Colonies, semi-Crown Colonies, semi-Responsible Colonies or what have you—just as they now stand. Thus it is proposed that the Colonial Office maintain the direct powers of interference in each unit, which it now enjoys."

"What has emerged is a proposed constitutional structure which will simplify the administrative problems of the Colonial Office, but transfer no power to our representatives to solve the problems of the Caribbean."

"Rance must go"

Rance's influence has sunk lower and lower since 1948-49, and to-day is the most hated foreigner in the West Indies. How often in the streets of Port-of-Spain, San Fernando, Georgetown, Piarco, and Point Fortin has the slogan—"Rance must go" hit the headlines?

Following this decline, the dollar-mad maniacs have searched for new bait. Now they try to peddle POINT 4, the World Bank, the Truman Doctrine and all the other discredited disguises that were meant to hide imperial intervention.

Yankee demands

On November 17th, the NEW YORK TIMES in an editorial on the proposed London talks on Federation stated that the plans held much interest for America.

"We in the United States, can view this development with sympathetic interest."

"The British Islands in the Caribbean—Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, the Leewards and the Windwards—have a population only slightly larger than that of Manhattan Island, though they include 6,884 square miles of land, scattered over many thousands of square miles of sea. But they have much historical importance, their economic importance is growing, and yearly they become more familiar to American tourists. Hence the announcement that a long-discussed plan for Federation will take shape at a Conference to be held in London next April has great interest for us..."

"If the plan is carried out there will be a Federation or Commonwealth Parliament, legislating for all members, and presumably with much more freedom from British control than is enjoyed at present (?)..."

"No thoughtful visitor in these Westward British Isles can help realising how many and how difficult these problems are. The crimes and blunders of bygone generations—the exterminating of the original inhabitants, the introduction of slaves, the failure to build a solid and prosperous economy after slavery was abolished..."

"Yet these islands are rich in possibilities; their climate during a great part of the year is pleasant; their human stock is capable of increased production; and they are showing healthy signs of desiring to manage their own affairs..."

Grantley Adams raging at his colleagues in the Barbados House tried to thwart their demands for democracy with the threat that the U.S.A. would cut off all aid (arm labour prospects, etc.) if they continued to act like Communists!

See now where the so-called Confederation of "Free" Trade Unions fits in? They are the softening up barrage that precedes the storm that is planned to take place in London in the carpeted sweat-shops of Whitehall.

The whole picture is complete; London and New York have only one piece that does not fit in—THE PEOPLE.

* We want a Federation and Self-Government Now. The hungry leering of U.S.A. businessmen is a further indication of the potential wealth we possess. Yankee interests want the Rance schemes carried out. A super-Colony for Britain in the West Indies would be lovely pickings for Britain's super creditor. The English Governor-General is to be the appointed chief, after the style that Britain has employed in Kenya and sought in vain in Bechuanaland.

Our Programme

Our horizons are unlimited when we win our demands. This has the overwhelming support of organised labour and united movement can fight confidently for the victory of the C.L.C. programme:

1. UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE in each unit of the proposed Federation of the West Indies.
2. RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT for each Unit, with wholly elected Legislatures and Executive Councils responsible to these Legislatures.
3. A WHOLLY ELECTED Federal Parliament wholly elected Cabinet or Executive Council responsible to the Legislature.